In the Claims

Claims 1-42 [canceled].

43. [New] A peripheral device management method performed by a management apparatus, the method comprising:

first receiving identification information for a plurality of peripheral devices of a common network;

second receiving threshold information regarding a plurality of thresholds corresponding to operations of respective ones of the peripheral devices;

formulating configuration data configured to cause configuration of respective ones of the peripheral devices according to respective ones of the thresholds;

communicating the configuration data to the peripheral devices using the identification information;

after the communicating, third receiving statuses corresponding to the thresholds from respective ones of the peripheral devices;

processing the statuses; and

initiating an action with respect to the statuses of the peripheral devices responsive to the processing.

44. [New] The method of claim 43 wherein the method is performed by the management apparatus comprising a server in communication with the common network, and wherein the receivings, the formulating, the communicating, the processing and the initiating individually comprise acts performed by the server.

45. [New] The method of claim 43 further comprising outputting a plurality of instructions for communication through a firewall associated with the common network, and wherein the instructions are configured to cause an entity inside the firewall to discover presences of the peripheral devices of the common network and to communicate the identification information corresponding to the peripheral devices responsive to the discovery.

46. [New] The method of claim 43 wherein the statuses are indicative of levels of consumables for respective ones of at least some of the peripheral devices, wherein the consumables are consumed during operations of respective ones of the peripheral devices, wherein the statuses indicate triggering of the thresholds for respective ones of the peripheral devices, and wherein the initiating comprises initiating shipment of the consumables.

47. [New] The method of claim 46 wherein the processing comprises:

combining the statuses to provide combined status data; and

comparing the combined status data with respect to an order threshold, and wherein the initiating the shipment of the consumable comprises initiating responsive to the combined data triggering the order threshold.

48. [New] The method of claim 47 further comprising defining a plurality of different groups of the peripheral devices, and the combining the statuses comprises combining the statuses of the peripheral devices of one of the groups.

49. [New] The method of claim 43 wherein the statuses are indicative of levels of consumables for respective ones of the peripheral devices, wherein the consumables are consumed during operations of respective ones of the peripheral devices, wherein the statuses indicate triggering of the thresholds for respective ones of the peripheral devices, and wherein the initiating comprises initiating outputting of information indicative of the levels of the consumables for communication to an entity.

50. [New] The method of claim 43 wherein the statuses are individually indicative of triggering of a maintenance threshold indicative of a predetermined amount of operations performed by a respective one of the peripheral devices, and wherein the initiating comprises initiating outputting of a maintenance service request to request maintenance of at least one of the peripheral devices.

51. [New] The method of claim 43 wherein the initiating comprises initiating communication of a request for authorization with respect to replenishment of a consumable for at least one of the peripheral devices.

52. [New] The method of claim 43 wherein the initiating comprises initiating communication of a request for authorization with respect to performing maintenance for at least one of the peripheral devices.

53. [New] A peripheral device consumable management method comprising:

first receiving identification information regarding a plurality of peripheral devices individually configured to consume a consumable;

defining a plurality of different groups individually comprising different ones of the peripheral devices;

receiving statuses from the peripheral devices indicating replenishment of the consumable is desired for respective ones of the peripheral devices;

for an individual one of the groups, combining the statuses of the respective peripheral devices of the group providing combined status data;

comparing the combined status data with respect to a threshold; and

initiating an action with respect to replenishment of the consumable for the peripheral devices of the group responsive to the comparing indicating the combined status data triggering the threshold.

54. [New] A peripheral device consumable management apparatus comprising:

a communications interface configured to output a communication configured to initiate discovery of a plurality of peripheral devices of a common network, to receive identification information of the discovered peripheral devices responsive to the outputting of the communication, and to receive status information regarding a status of a consumable for at least one of the peripheral devices; and

processing circuitry coupled with the communications interface and configured to access the identification information and the status information, to process the status information, and to initiate an action with respect to

replenishment of the consumable for the at least one of the peripheral devices responsive to the processing of the status information.

55. [New] The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the communications interface is configured to receive information defining a plurality of thresholds corresponding to levels at which replenishment of the consumable is desired for respective ones of the peripheral devices, and to control the communications interface to output configuration data configured to configure respective ones of the peripheral devices according to respective ones of the thresholds.

56. [New] The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the communications interface and the processing circuitry are components of the management apparatus comprising a web server.

57. [New] The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the outputted communication is configured for communication through a firewall associated with the common network, and wherein the outputted communication comprises a plurality of instructions configured to cause an entity inside the firewall to discover presences of the peripheral devices of the common network and to communicate the identification information using the discovered presences of the peripheral devices.

58. [New] The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to initiate the action comprising initiating communication of an order for the consumable.

59. [New] The apparatus of claim 58 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to initiate the action responsive to the processing of the status information indicating the status of the consumable for the at least one of the peripheral devices triggering a threshold.

60. [New] The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to initiate the action comprising initiating shipment of the consumable.

61. [New] The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the status information indicates statuses of the consumable for a plurality of the peripheral devices are below respective thresholds for the consumable for respective ones of the peripheral devices, and wherein the processing circuitry is configured to process the status information comprising combining the statuses providing combined status data, and comparing the combined status data to an order threshold, and wherein the processing circuitry is configured to initiate the action responsive to the comparing of the combined status data triggering the order threshold.

62. [New] The apparatus of claim 61 wherein the processing circuitry is configured to define a plurality of different groups of the peripheral devices, and wherein the processing circuitry is configured to combine the statuses of the peripheral devices of one of the groups to provide the combined status data